

REMARKS

Claims Status

Prior to entry of this Amendment and Response, claims 1-3, 6, 7, 11-17, 20-22, and 25-27 were pending in this application. In the Office Action, claims 2, 3, 7, 12-14, 16, 17, 21, 22, 25 and 27 were objected to. In this Amendment and Response, claims 2, 3, 7, 12-14, 16, 17, 21, 25, and 27 are amended, and claims 4, 5, 8-10, 18, 19, and 22-24 are cancelled, without prejudice. Applicants reserve the right to pursue these claims in later applications. Support for the amendments may be found in the specification, and no new matter has been added.

Upon entry of this Amendment and Response, claims 1-3, 6, 7, 11-17, 20, 21, and 25-27 remain pending. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the objections in light of the amendments made here.

Claim Objections

In paragraph 2, the Examiner objected to claims 2 and 16. These claims have been amended to address the Examiner's objections.

In paragraph 3, the Examiner objected to claims 3 and 17. These claims have been amended to address the Examiner's objections.

In paragraph 4, the Examiner objected to claims 7 and 21. These claims have been amended to address the Examiner's objections.

In paragraph 5, the Examiner objected to claim 22. This claim has been cancelled, rendering the Examiner's objection moot.

In paragraph 6, the Examiner objected to claim 2. The claim has been amended to address the Examiner's objection.

In paragraph 7, the Examiner objected to claim 3. The claim has been amended to address the Examiner's objection.

In paragraph 8, the Examiner objected to claim 12. The claim has been amended to address the Examiner's objection.

In paragraph 9, the Examiner objected to claim 13. The claim has been amended to address the Examiner's objection.

In paragraph 10, the Examiner objected to claim 14. The claim has been amended to address the Examiner's objection.

In paragraph 11, the Examiner objected to claim 16. The claim has been amended to address the Examiner's objection.

In paragraph 12, the Examiner objected to claim 17. The claim has been amended to address the Examiner's objection.

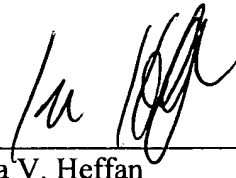
In paragraph 13, the Examiner objected to claim 25. The claim has been amended to address the Examiner's objection.

In paragraph 14, the Examiner objected to claim 27. The claim has been amended to address the Examiner's objection.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application, withdrawal of all grounds of objection, and allowance of claims 1-3, 6, 7, 11-17, 20, 21, and 25-27 in due course. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative by telephone at the number below to discuss any outstanding issues.

Respectfully submitted,



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